

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method to remove $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting human blood comprising $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ regulatory T cells with ligands antibodies specifically binding to ~~one or more members selected from the group consisting of :~~

(i) the $CD4$, ~~$CD25$~~ and CTLA-4 entities on the T cells or

(ii) the $CD25$ and CTLA-4 entities on the T cells; and

(b) removing said $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ regulatory T cells from the human blood; ~~and~~

~~(c) identifying the $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ T regulatory cells from the human blood in~~
step (b) as $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ regulatory T cells.

13.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, whereby said $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ regulatory T cells are removed from the human peripheral blood.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further

comprises utilizing immunoadsorption methods.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing a stimulating agent or antigen presenting cells.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein step (c) comprises the~~
further comprising a step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺
CD25⁺ T cells.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells comprises analyzing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a property selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) constitutive expression of CTLA-4;
- (b) being non-proliferative following stimulation via the T cell receptor;
- (c) being in an anergic state;
- (d) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-15;
- (e) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-2 and IL-15;
- (f) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with allogeneic mature dendritic cells;
- (g) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with anti-CD28 antibodies and immobilized anti-CD3 antibodies;
- (h) suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4⁺ T cells in a coculture experiment;
- (i) suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD8⁺ T cells in a coculture

experiment; and

- (j) having a cytokine profile that differs from that of $CD4^{+}CD25^{-}$ T cells.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^{+}$ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether said property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^{+}$ T cells is contact-dependent.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^{+}$ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises the use of $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells that have been activated and fixed.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ T cells for a cytokine profile of predominant secretion of IL-10 and only low levels of secretion of IL-2, IL-4, and IFN- γ .

33. (Currently Amended) A method to remove $CD4^{+}CD25^{+}$ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

- (a) isolating a population of $CD4^{+}$ T cells from the blood;

- (b) isolating a population of $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ T cells from the population of $CD4^{+}$ T cells isolated in step (a); and
- (c) ~~identifying~~ testing the $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ T cells isolated in step (b) for constitutive expression of CTLA-4 as $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ ~~regulatory~~ T cells.